

St. Mary's - 348  
Bethesda M.E. Church  
Cr. of St. Georges Church & Happyland Rds.  
Valley Lee, MD 20692

1870, 1911

Access: Public

Bethesda M.E. Church stands 20' from the south side of St. George's Church Rd. across the street from the entrance to Happyland Road. The present church was erected in 1911. In 1891, thirty members of the Bethesda M.E. congregation under the leadership of the Rev. Hezekiah Statesman crossed the road and standing under an oak tree founded St. Mark Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethesda is the oldest black Methodist congregation in this area of St. Mary's County.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI# 1903484808 <sup>SM 348</sup>

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bethesda M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corners of St. Georges Church & Happyland Rds.

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Marys

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

- ☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Bethesda M.E. Church  
C/O Rev. Victor O. Johnson

Telephone #: 872-5831

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

St. Inigoes

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md, 20684

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Marys Co. Court House

Liber #:

Unable to

Folio #:

locate

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

SM-348

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE 1911

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Bethesda M.E. Church stands 20' from the south side of St. George's Church Road across the street from the entrance to Happy-land Rd. This particular structure dates from 1911. It faces east and is 26' across the front facade and 42' in depth. The building is gabled and runs East-West longitudinally. The top of the east gable is decorated with imbricated shingles. There are 3 concrete steps up to the hollow wooden double doors at the entrance. There are two 2-over-2 4' clear glass windows in the front facade (at either side of the double doors). There are three of these identical windows in the north side of the building and three more on the south side. The structure is covered with wide wooden siding and is painted white. The church has a large concrete hall on the east side. There are cemeteries on the west and south sides.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1870-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethesda M.E. Church is the oldest black Methodist church in this area of St. Mary's County. At one time it had a large congregation. In 1891, thirty members of the Bethesda M.E. Church under the leadership of the Rev. Hezekiah Statesman crossed the street and standing under an oak formed Saint Mark - Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. Since that time, Bethesda's congregation declined.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American  
History & Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

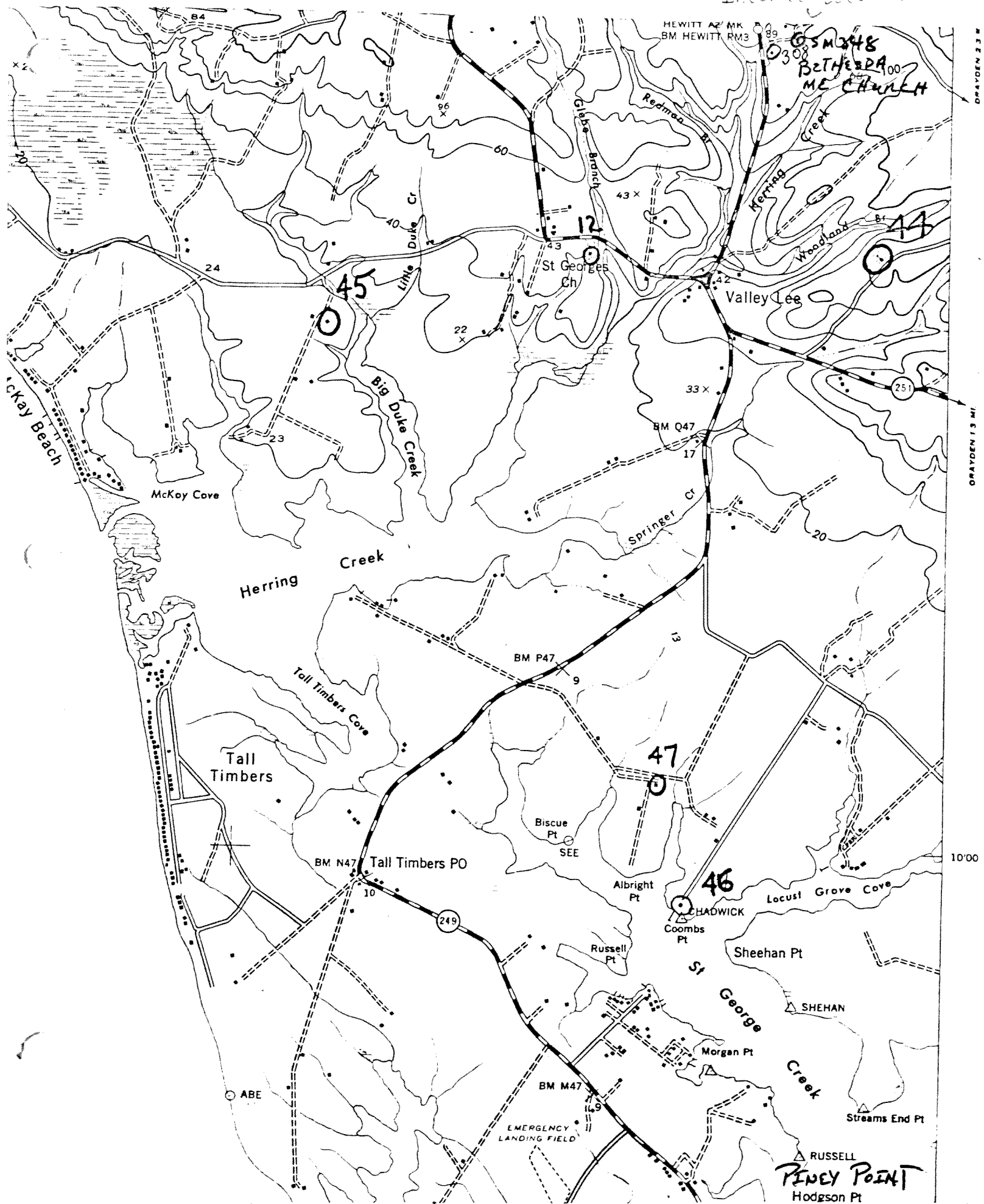
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

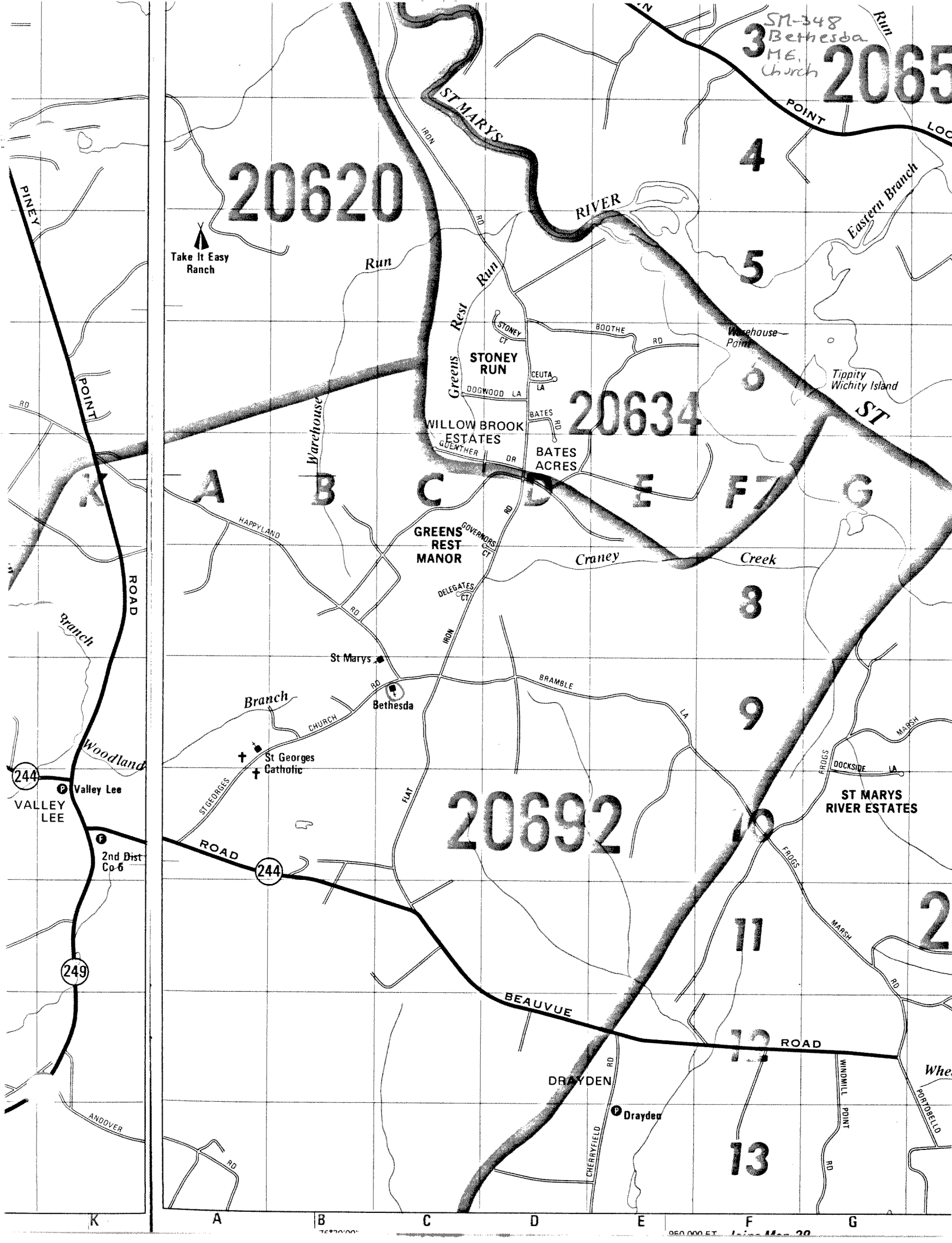
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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89  
0308  
SM 348  
BETHESDA  
ME CHURCH





20620

3 SN-348 Bethesda ME. Church 2065

20634

20692

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PINEY  
POINT  
ROAD  
Branch  
Woodland  
Valley Lee  
2nd Dist  
Co-6  
ANDOVER

Take It Easy  
Ranch

Run

ST MARYS

RIVER

Eastern Branch

STONEY  
RUN

WILLOW BROOK  
ESTATES

BATES  
ACRES

GREENS  
REST  
MANOR

Warehouse  
Point

Tipity  
Wichity Island

ST

Craney

Creek

Branch

St Georges  
Catholic

FLAT

BRAMBLE

ST MARYS  
RIVER ESTATES

BEAUVUE

DRAYDEN

Drayden

ROAD

WINDMILL  
POINT

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POUDRELL

K

A

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E

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G

75°30'00"

950,000 FT. 1:50,000 Scale Map 20

PINEY POINT

SM-348  
Bethesda M.E. Church

Warehouse  
Point

Tippy  
Wichity I

Frog  
Marshes

Craney  
Creek

Run

Watchhouse

Grass  
Real Run

HEWITT  
RD

Hawitts

HAPPYLAND  
ROAD

Gravel  
Pits

HAPPYLAND  
RD

St Mary's  
Ch

Cem

Gravel  
Pits

Trailer  
Park

St George's  
Ch

Valley  
Woodland

BEALVOIE  
RD

St George's  
Ch

Cem

Globe

avel

90

Redmond

106

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Albright  
Pt

Coombs  
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Sheehan  
Pt

Russell  
Pt

Oakland  
Cove

Andover Estates

Drayden

101

PROSS

MARSH

RD

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Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church SM-348  
Valley Lee, St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Southeast elevation  
1/81



Bethesda m.E

Valley Lee

St. Mary's Co.